



The Martha Messenger

Community Newsletter of the Martha T. Berry MCF

July 2009

Volume 8

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies, For Amber Waves of Grain



Buried Treasure Found In A Macomb County Partnership

If you are interested in taking part in a treasure hunt, you don't have to go to search on a distant, deserted island. Two jewels in the crown of Macomb County, the Robert G. Lutz School and the Martha T. Berry Medical Care Facility are right here in Mount Clemens. Each of these two facilities provide outstanding service to citizens with specific needs yet, unless a family member requires help, often the existence of these specialized facilities remains unknown to many. We, who are residents and employees of MTB, do know about our programs and care but it's possible that many of us here don't know about the Lutz School



Jill, Job Coach Char, and Quanto observe as Coordinator Joe Delegato gives vacuuming instruction to Liz.



On the job Lutz students are armed with vacuums and cleaning supplies.

and our working partnership.

The Robert Lutz School for Work Experience enrolls special needs students from Macomb County's 21 school districts. It is located nearby, on Cass Avenue in Mount Clemens, and serves approximately 243 students ranging in age from 18 to 26 years of age with learning and/or physical impairments. Lutz School offers its students not only a vocational training program, but also emphasizes work habits, attitudes and appropriate behavior on the job. Instruction takes place in a classroom setting but also moves the students out into the

community for appropriate work experiences. At the school, students learn in an actual laundry, food prep and commercial kitchen, greenhouse and garden area, manufacture wood products, and even hold a weekly car wash. Students participate in a broad range of activities that focus on work maturity,



Quanto has a smiling face and the ability to do a super job.

community participation and daily living skills, as well as vocational training and recreation. What a tall order!



In addition to work in a classroom setting, students receive instruction at a wide variety of training sites throughout the community including hospitals, assisted living facilities, fast food shops, auto repair, and retail stores. These sites allow the students to practice the work skills learned in the classroom in a more realistic setting while providing a kind of “safe harbor” for them. This is where Martha T. Berry enters the picture and where the partnership is formed.



Jason makes sure the café tables are clean and ready for the next patrons.

The Lutz/MTB partnership is an old one going back many years to the time when Meals on Wheels were prepared here. In time, the senior meal program was moved from MTB, but the Lutz School students stayed here providing valuable assistance while gaining their needed work experience. At the present time, students work hand in hand with the custodians dusting, vacuuming, cleaning windows, changing burnt out light bulbs setting up tables for special activities, and decorating for the holidays. The students receive no



Job Coach Char gives Liz instruction in the fine points of dust removal.

Not only is MTB in close proximity to the Lutz School, it is a facility that allows the students to receive instruction in and to practice many kinds of job skills. Here, all in one setting, we find a kitchen, laundry, offices, garden, and common areas. The students work under the direction of a Job Coach and the MTB custodial staff putting into practice the skills they bring from the classroom setting. Students come four days a week and work mornings going about their tasks cheerfully and efficiently.



Jill brings in her supplies and is ready to begin the job.

monetary reward for performing the work they do at Martha T. Berry. For them, it's all about the training they receive here. But that's not all! They students love to meet the residents and to interact with them. They say that it's

fun to meet the residents and to talk with them. It makes them happy to know that they are helping others. Soon, the students will branch out into other areas including doing laundry for residents and trying their hands at gardening.

Job Coach Charlene Kassley who accompanies the Lutz Students says that she “feels very fortunate to be able to work this job with helpful and eager Lutz Students,” and that students working at MTB greatly benefit from their experience which prepares them for future employment.



Liz and Quanto add a decorative touch to the tables they are preparing for a special activity.

Joe Delegato, who acts as a Transitional Coordinator for students states that there is a great reward in helping these students become active members of the community. He says that in coming to Martha T. Berry, the students and Lutz School not only gain, but also sustain a community partnership working to quality standards and expectations at this work site. What a great partnership!



Jill and Jason report for duty.



Coordinator Joe with Jill, Quanto and Liz.



Jason and Quanto arrange tables and chairs.



Jill makes sure that not a speck of dust remains.



Hire Liz and Quanto for a super job.



**Lutz
School**



A Treasured Performance



Thank You For The Flowers

The Master Gardeners would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who donated flowers to help enhance the central courtyard. Of course, the gardeners are continuing their efforts through the summer and encourage all to continue to donate! The group will accept most plants for the courtyard.

If you would like to donate, please include plant information (sun/shade lover, likes dry or wet environment, plant name, etc.) so that plants can be planted properly. Again, thank you for your past donations and for donations yet to be made!

Thanks To St. Gertrude Students

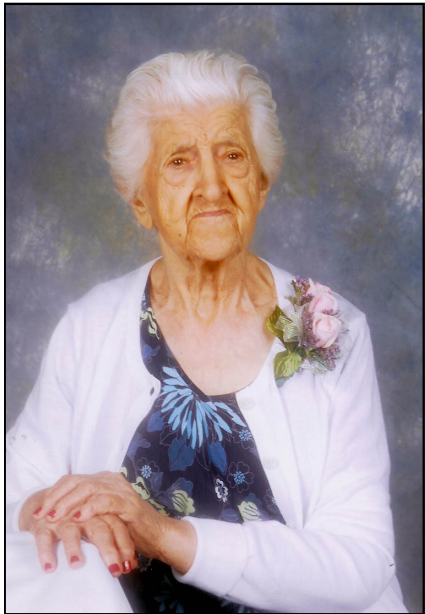
St. Gertrude, Our Lady of Hope Service Work Camp Students, did a great job! Thank you, students for all your hard work and effort pulling weeds and planting flowers in the front and back gardens. You made our weed filled gardens beautiful again. Our sincere thanks and appreciation are yours!



A Great Way to Say Thank You

We certainly appreciate our volunteers and the service they provide to Martha T. Berry MCF. In order to express our thanks, a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was held by the A & R staff on Thursday, June 25th. Featuring a superb menu of fruit plate, shish kabob, baked potato, cucumber salad, rolls and ice cream puffs, the dinner was a great success. Not even the "Storm of the Century" that happened on that day kept our volunteers away. Again, thanks to all the volunteers who make MTB their volunteer station.

Meet Some Of Our June Birthday Personalities

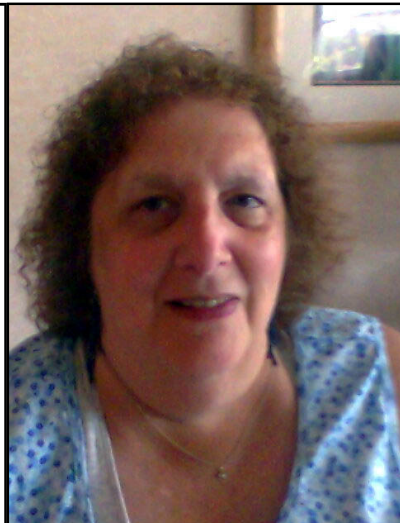


Katherine Barraco is celebrating her 101st birthday this month.

Katherine Barraco was born to Stephen and Gondolfa Cascio, and spent her childhood years helping to care for her ten younger siblings. She often had to miss school since her help was needed at home. Nevertheless, Katherine still managed to earn an 8th grade education. She also worked outside the home for a number of years at the Hudson Motor Company. At the age of 20, Katherine married Joseph Barraco in 1928. Joe, born in Sicily, was a Ford plant supervisor at the time of the wedding. The couple had five children but only four survived childhood. For a time, they lived on a farm in Algonac where there was no plumbing and Katherine had to cook on a wood burning stove. She began her life long habit of recycling during the Great Depression and is known to her family as the "Queen of Recycling." Life was easier after a move to the city, still Katherine worked hard as a homemaker. She used a wringer style wash machine

and hung clothes on a line until she was 95. She baked Poor Man's Cake and bread until she was 90. (recipe on page 7) Katherine is a survivor...she survived the loss of her son when he was 7, both parents, and her husband Joe after 55 years of marriage. She survived breast cancer and a mastectomy in 1990. Katherine never dwells on losses and has pleasant memories of the loved ones who have passed away. When asked how she is doing, she replies, "How should I be doing?" and another favorite saying is "Use it up, wear it out!" Katherine lived alone until the age of 100 years and one month. Katherine loves her coffee and always puts Cheerios in her coffee for breakfast. She has a daughter Joan, sons Stephen and Anthony and their wives, 14 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Katherine, may you feel the love of family and friends surround you on your birthday and always.

Robin Hofer was born in Anchorage, Alaska. Her dad was in the Air Force and her mom joined him there for a time. Robin attended Maplewood Elementary School in Garden City and Franklin High School in Livonia. She went on to take culinary arts classes at Schoolcraft College. As a child, Robin was a "typical girl" loving Barbie Dolls and to play at dressing up. She even dressed up her cats and dogs! As an only child, she didn't have to share dolls and had them all to herself to dress up as well. Robin was very active playing tennis, taking ice skating lessons, and playing baseball. Interested in food preparation, Robin began cooking at home as a child. She did some catering and is proud of an "all hors d'oeuvres wedding" that she planned and presented. Ice sculptures were another one of Robin's culinary talents. She sculpted a cornucopia overflowing with fruits



Robin Hofer tries to find joy in the friendships she has made here at Martha T. Berry MCF.

all made of ice. Ceramics were another hobby of Robin's and she states that "anything in the world that you can think of, I could make." Robin is married to her husband Ron and says that "I simply love him to death," and that she knows that "he loves me in the very same way." MS has made it necessary for Robin to become a resident here at Martha T. Berry. Although she has had to give up many of the activities that she previously enjoyed, Robin is cheerful and full of energy. She loves the Detroit Tigers and one wall of her room is covered with Tiger photos and clippings. Her life has been enriched by the friendship of three other residents, Julie, Becky, and Linda, all of whom have MS as well. They all try to find joy in friendship and the shared experiences of daily living. They say that they "don't have time to be sad." Robin loves the new courtyard and can be found seeking the sun there. Have a wonderful birthday, Robin. Our best to you and yours!



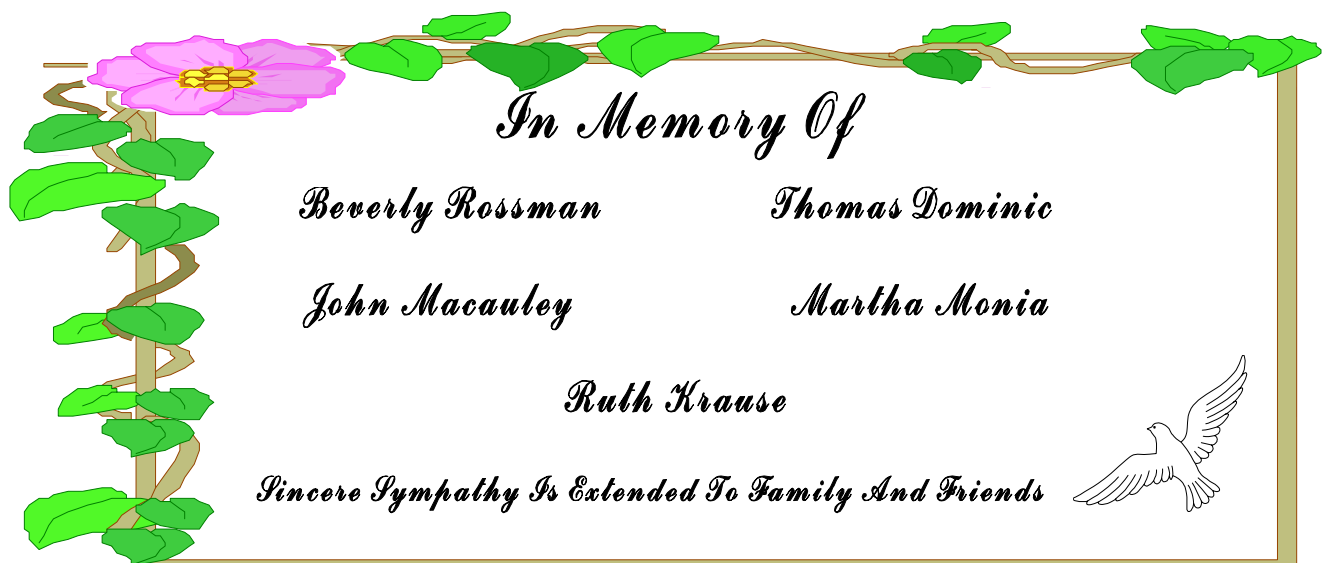
HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAYS TO OUR RESIDENTS

Kiriakos Hermiz 7/1 Margaret Tucholski 7/3
Lynda Kosciolek 7/4 Judith Pokriefka 7/6
Robin Hofer 7/10 Katherine Barraco 7/11
Harold Carnahan 7/12 Richard Mhlader 7/14
Clayton Pelkey 7/18 Andrew Vineski III 7/20
Patricia Benedettini 7/24
Alieta Barnowske 7/26 David Savich 7/29

JULY EVENTS

7/1	Aunt Theresa Bingo	10:30 AM
7/1	Birthday Bingo	2:30 PM
7/2	Food Committee Meeting	2:00 PM
7/4	King of Kings Bingo	10:30 AM
7/5	Knights of Columbus Rosary	2:00 PM
7/7	Resident Council	2:30 PM
7/8	"Sliders" in the Courtyard	2:30 PM
7/9	Good Neighbor Bingo	7:00 PM
7/11	King of Kings Music Variety	10:30 AM
7/14	Tony the Accordion Player and Banjo Dan	7:00 PM
7/17	Sing-A-Long With Gary!	2:30 PM
7/18	King of Kings Wii Games	10:30 PM
7/21	Dollar Store	2:30 PM
7/22	Cootie Bingo	7:30 PM
7/25	King of Kings Craft	10:30 PM
7/28	Red Hat Tea Party	2:30 PM
7/30	American Legion Bike Show	7:00 PM





In Memory Of

Beverly Rossman

Thomas Dominic

John Macauley

Martha Monia

Ruth Krause

Sincere Sympathy Is Extended To Family And Friends



July in Poetry

from Lenore Plawchan,
Resident Poet

July 4th is Independence Day, also National Country Music Day.
The skies will light up with fireworks while you hear Country Music tunes play.

July 7th is National Grilling Day. Get out those Father's Day grills!
Hot dogs and hamburgers, anything goes! Whatever gives you a thrill.

July 19th is National Ice Cream Day. What is your favorite?
Vanilla, strawberry, butter pecan, or maybe good old chocolate.

July 24th is International Joke Day. You must know good jokes.
Put on your thinking cap and start telling a few folks.

July 26th is Parent Day. So all of you parents, pat yourself on the back.
We have many stories to tell and of course, we want to keep track.



In Memory of One of Our Own

Sheree Lynn Adams



Sheree Lynn Adams passed away on Monday, June 8, 2009. She was a Certified Nurse's Assistant and for the last nine years, worked at Martha T. Berry caring for the elderly and the ill. She had many friends here whom she cared for and was in turn loved by many. She leaves her children, her family members, her friends, and the many residents for whom she cared during her lifetime. Rest in peace, Sheree.



Residents' Corner



by Laurie Richards

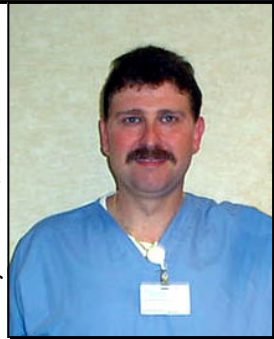
Resident Council was held on June 2nd at 2:30 PM. The council discussed the recent adjustment to the "Nail Day" activity, Saturday movies, adjustments needed to improve weekly Keno games, and dietary concerns. The group also continued discussion of renaming the central courtyard after Paul Abrahamson, honoring our beloved friend and Master Gardener who lost his battle with cancer on May 2, 2009. The suggestion has been approved by the Social Services Board. A dedication ceremony will be held in August.



Antonio Evans

Employees of the Month

Anthony Evans and Bill Scott have been selected as the Employees of the Month for July. The residents say that Antonio is very precise and careful and that he gets everything done well. He gets things done in a timely way and you never have to wait for him. He is a lot of fun. Antonio is always laughing and singing and he has a really great voice. He is a man with a song on his lips! The residents call Bill Scott the consummate gentleman.



Bill Scott

He is always there for you and will do anything for you. He is a kind and thoughtful person. Bill never gets rattled. He is always ready to lend a hand and will assist anyone with whatever they need done. These are some great comments and they show that Antonio and Bill will go above and beyond what is required for the residents. Congratulations to the both of you, Antonio and Bill.



Helen Enzmann and Agnes Rastall.

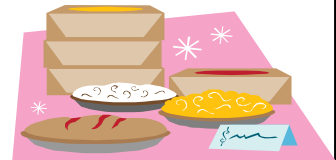
Helen's Gifts

Helen Enzmann follows the example of the gleaners told of in the story of Ruth. The women of her church, King of Kings Lutheran, make quilts to send to those in need all over the country. Helen does not let the leftover scraps go to waste. She gathers all the left over fabric and makes it into lap blankets to keep knees and legs

warm. She recently brought 30 very lovely lap blankets to Martha T. Berry. They are beautifully made and feature various artistic patterns. The Activities and Recreation Staff plans to hold a Blanket Bingo and use the lap blankets as prizes. Helen toured Martha T. Berry, admired the facility, and stopped to chat with several of the residents. Here, she is seen paying Agnes Rastall a brief visit. Thank you, Helen, for your generous and beautiful contribution.

Katherine Barracco's Poor Man Cake

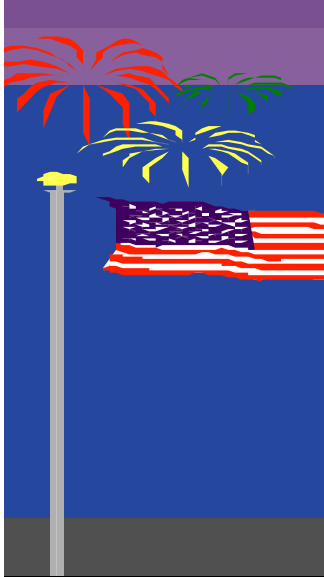
4 cups sugar
1 cup shortening
4 eggs
8 cups flour
4 tsps. baking soda
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg
Pinch of salt
One quart of buttermilk
Raisins and nuts (toasted)



Cream sugar and shortening, add eggs. Add buttermilk. Add dry ingredients. Add raisins and nuts. Makes four loaves. Bake until done. Enjoy!

The Martha Messenger Is Brought To You Through the Generosity and Kindness of : Denise Wilson, Jan Weiss Activities Department Staff Tom Murphy Kathy Lesniak Ruth & Sergio Barrientez Sally Wheeler Chris Cronin's Family Shendel Family Gregory & Judith Zdankiewicz Sue Chaddha Jim Glover Douglas & Deborah DeMeester Diane Gracher In memory of Shaun Victoria Kapp Susan Kozemko Anonymous Marty Mok in memory of Al Mok and Emily Krueger Litho Printing Lil in momory of Anna Giuliani Ketty Cueter Sharon Tomkowiak

Welcome New Residents



Joseph Monty
David Batchelder
Katherine Barraco
Betty Boddy

Barbara Saar
Beatrice Maas
June Bauer
Adrian Bahri



Best Wishes To Those Who Have Returned Home

Donna James Theodore Gingell
Irene Fenchel Edward Jefferson
Milton Darling Delores Kacanowski
Lupe Rublo Delores Boudreaux



Charlie (the Carpenter) Thomas

Richard Rowe

Meet Our Carpenters

Do you need a wheelchair fixed? It's Charlie the Carpenter and Rich to the rescue! This month, the Martha Messenger features our carpenters and their role in the operation of Martha T. Berry.

Charlie Thomas grew up in Centerline and attended St. Clement Grade School and Centerline High. Charlie has many interests including taking things apart, fishing, and traveling. He is married and loves

to go camping with his wife. He hails from a large family and has five brothers and five sisters. He has several work experiences including working for the Board of Education for three years, the Detroit Macomb Hospital Association for six years and Macomb County for twenty-one years. He finds working here enjoyable and likes being able to help the residents in many ways. He has used his skills to remodel the nursing office and has made a monument for the courtyard.

Richard Rowe grew up in Warren and attended elementary and high school there. He is married and has four children. One owns a make-up studio, another sells dental implants, the third is attending college and the baby just completed high school. He enjoys baseball, bowling, hockey, golf, and spending time with his family. Rich has worked at Henry Ford Hospital for twenty-eight years, and as a carpenter for fifteen. He applied for an opening in Macomb County and was assigned to MTB almost six years ago. He enjoys the residents and says that they are fun to talk to.

Together, Charlie and Rich complete the many jobs they are called upon to do such as repairing hand rails, ceiling tiles, shower rooms, locks, and fixing pretty much everything that the other trades don't. They are adept at fixing wheel chairs. Some of the things they are called upon to do by the residents include fixing eye glasses, fixing remotes, hanging up pictures, putting new batteries in hearing aids, and fixing everything the residents need from little to big. They are always willing to help and are greatly appreciated by the residents.